



1999–2000 CATS ASSESSMENT

Open-Response Item Scoring Worksheet

Grade 11 – Social Studies

The **academic expectation** addressed by the open-response item “Job Opportunities” is

- 2.18 Students understand economic principles and are able to make economic decisions that have consequences in daily living.

The **core content** addressed by this item includes:

- SS-H-3.2.1 Economic systems can be evaluated by their abilities to achieve broad social goals such as freedom, efficiency, equity, security, and growth.

Job Opportunities

Use the chart below to answer the question.

FASTEST GROWING OCCUPATIONS, 1992 – 2005

Occupation	percent change	Occupation	percent change
Home health aides	138%	Medical assistants	71%
Human service workers	136%	Detectives, except public	70%
Personal and home care aides	130%	Correction officers	70%
Computer engineers and scientists	112%	Child care workers	66%
Systems analysts	110%	Travel agents	66%
Physical and corrective therapy assistants and aides	93%	Radiologic technologists and technicians	63%
Physical therapists	88%	Nursery workers	62%
Paralegals	86%	Medical records technicians	61%
Teachers, special education	74%	Operations research analysts	61%
		Occupational therapists	60%
		Legal secretaries	57%

The chart above shows occupations in the United States that are expected to experience the greatest rate of growth in the future.

Discuss **two** changes occurring in American society that offer an explanation for the fast growth of **two** of these occupations.



SCORING GUIDE

Grade 11 Social Studies

Score	Description
4	Student thoroughly discusses two societal changes in America that contribute to the fast growth of two occupations from the chart. Discussion demonstrates a clear understanding of how change affects the work force.
3	Student generally discusses two societal changes in America that contribute to the fast growth of two occupations from the chart. Discussion demonstrates a general understanding of how change affects the work force.
2	Student discusses in limited terms two societal changes in America that contribute to the fast growth of two occupations from the chart. Understanding is limited. OR Student generally discusses one societal change in America that contributes to the fast growth of one occupation from the chart.
1	Response is minimal (e.g., student minimally discusses one societal change that contributes to the fast growth of one occupation from the chart).
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Possible Explanations for Job Growth:

Home health, personal, and home care aides—increasingly older population; less expensive than hospital stays; technological advancements in medical home-care machines/instruments

Human service workers—problems associated with increasing population and complex society; more attention given to domestic problems

Computer engineers and scientists—computer revolution requires innovation and maintenance

Systems, operations research analysts—complex business structure, computers, and management requires expertise

Physical and corrective therapists/aides—improvements/advancements in medicine extend the life of patients who have diseases or injuries that were once fatal, and these patients now require rehabilitation.

Paralegals and legal secretaries—complex society and increased population creates more laws and regulations, and lawsuits; people more likely to sue for “instant wealth”

Teachers, special education—more students diagnosed with learning difficulties

Medical assistants and medical records technicians—increase in patients as “baby boomers” age

Private detectives—increase in crime and overwhelmed public police agencies

Correction officers—increase in prison population

Child care, nursery workers—increase in two-parent working households (more women working today); increase in single-parent households

Travel agents—“global” society means more people are traveling; transportation is less expensive; more people have money to travel

Radiologic technologists—increased emphasis on check-ups using x-rays for certain diseases

Occupational therapists—medical advancements enable better treatment for work-related injuries; less expensive for companies to rehabilitate workers than pay extended workers’ compensation



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 11 Social Studies

Sample 4-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

The time period shown on this chart shows changes in areas where I expected to see them. Seven of these occupations are in the medical field. The ones I am going to discuss are home health aides and computer engineers and scientists. Changes in society are causing a drastic increase of the elderly population and the continued growth of computer industries coupled with the Y2K problem. During his last State of the Union Address, President Clinton said that the elderly population of the United States is going to double in the next few years. As the "baby boomers" age, there is going to be a drastic need for more people in the medical field, particularly in the home health area. Computers are becoming more important to us every day. More and more industries and people are requiring computers to operate their businesses and other aspects of life. As the number of computers increases there is a need for more people who know how to operate, repair and develop software and computer equipment. Another reason is the Y2K problem. Countless numbers of computers could be adversely affected by this problem and the need for people to either fix these systems or put them back on-line is increasing every day as we approach the year 2000.

← Student selects two fast-growing occupations from the chart to discuss (i.e., home health aides, and computer engineers and scientists).

← Student thoroughly discusses how one change in American society (i.e., a doubling of the elderly population) helps to explain the fast growth of one of the listed occupations (i.e., home health aides).

← Student thoroughly discusses how another change in American society (i.e., "more and more industries and people are requiring computers") helps to explain the fast growth of another of the listed occupations (i.e., computer engineers and scientists).

Overall, the student demonstrates a strong understanding of some of the economic principles that affect the growth rate of occupations in an economic system. The student thoroughly discusses (i.e., discussion includes details) how two changes in American society help to explain the fast growth of two of the occupations listed on the chart.



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 11 Social Studies

Sample 4-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

In the future the U.S. expects several different occupations to experience a substantial amount of growth. Two such jobs are computer engineers and scientists, and systems analysts. One important reason for this growth is the availability of education in the U.S. As our education systems become more technologically advanced and education becomes available to more people, a greater number of people are able to receive higher education. College courses are now available to people who would not have normally been able to take them because of scholarships and government programs. This fact contributes not only to the growth of computer engineers/scientists and systems analysts, but to just about every occupation across the board.

Secondly, the society of the U.S. has moved into a technologically aware era. Computers and computer systems control almost everything in business, banking, and supermarkets, for example. Therefore, the need for computer engineers and systems analysts has increased. As computers and complex electronic systems continue to grow and dominate our society, the need for such jobs will also grow.

Student selects two fast-growing occupations from the chart to discuss (i.e., computer engineers and scientists, and systems analysts).

Student thoroughly discusses how one change in American society (i.e., the greater “availability of education in the U.S.”) helps to explain the fast growth of the two selected occupations.

Student thoroughly discusses how another change in American society (i.e., “the U.S. has moved into a technologically aware era”) helps to explain the fast growth of the two selected occupations.

Overall, the student demonstrates a strong understanding of some of the economic principles that affect the growth rate of occupations in an economic system. The student thoroughly discusses (i.e., discussion includes details) how two changes in American society help to explain the fast growth of two of the occupations listed on the chart.



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 11 Social Studies

Sample 3-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

One definite change in our society that would explain why computer engineers and scientists have one of the fastest growing jobs today, and of the future, is how that we as a society are becoming so dependent upon the use of computers. Computers are now becoming such a large part of our culture and daily lives. We use them in our homes, in our schools, and even in the workplace.

Another change in our society deals with our daily crime rate. This is why I am not surprised to see that Detectives and Correction Officers are yet other jobs that are growing by leaps and bounds. The crime rate which has increased tremendously, deals with how we look at our values and morals as a country and as individuals.

← Student generally discusses how one change in American society (i.e., we “are becoming so dependent upon the use of computers”) helps to explain the fast growth of one of the listed occupations (i.e., computer engineers and scientists).

← Student generally discusses how another change in American society (i.e., an increasing crime rate) helps to explain the fast growth of two of the listed occupations (i.e., detectives and correction officers). (Note: The reference to a third occupation does not affect the score.)

Overall, the student demonstrates a general understanding of some of the economic principles that affect the growth rate of occupations in an economic system. The student generally discusses how two changes in American society help to explain the fast growth of two of the occupations listed on the chart.



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 11 Social Studies

Sample 2-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

Child Care Workers - I believe that a need for nursery workers will increase because of the growth of jobs. Mothers will need to get supervision for their children.

Travel Agents - people want to see the world around them, especially since the overcrowding of cities, people want to get away. Enjoy life. and they can do it through travel.

← Student selects one of the listed occupations (i.e., child care workers) and provides a limited discussion of how one change in American society (i.e., “the growth of jobs”) helps to explain the fast growth of that occupation.

← Student selects another of the listed occupations (i.e., travel agents) and provides a limited discussion of how one change in American society (i.e., “the overcrowding of cities”) helps to explain the fast growth of that occupation.

Overall, the student demonstrates some understanding of some of the economic principles that affect the growth rate of occupations in an economic system. The student provides a limited discussion of how two changes in American society help to explain the fast growth of two of the occupations listed on the chart.



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 11 Social Studies

Sample 1-Point Response of Student Work

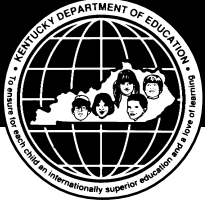
Student Response

Student provides a minimal and mostly unclear explanation for the fast growth of one of the listed occupations (i.e., computer engineers and scientists).

The changes are college expenses and the need for more certain jobs. For example, we are beginning to know much more about scientists and communism, so we get more computer engineers and scientists. Also many people are getting sick and we are beginning to find out more about both cancer and diseases, so we have an increase in health care workers.

Student provides a minimal explanation for the fast growth of another of the listed occupations (i.e., health care workers).

Overall, the student demonstrates a minimal understanding of some of the economic principles that affect the growth rate of occupations in an economic system. The student minimally explains how two changes in American society help to explain the fast growth of two of the listed occupations.



INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Grade 11 Social Studies

The open-response item “**Job Opportunities**” was designed to address students’ ability to draw and discuss conclusions about the trends in our society that make some jobs necessary in larger quantities than others. Even though jobs are not a product, the principle of supply and demand very much affects the need for certain jobs and professions. The instructional strategies below present ideas for helping students explore and master these concepts and skills.

Provide opportunities for students to work individually, in pairs, in small groups, and/or as a class to complete (with teacher guidance and support) any or all of the following activities:

- Interpret various charts and graphs from newspapers and magazines that depict the economic, political and social trends in twentieth century America.
- Research jobs in their community now and 25 years ago. Represent the data on a chart or graph. Reflect in a journal on the results and implications if they plan to stay in that community after high school or postsecondary training.
- Use the chart in this item and others to discuss various ways that charts can represent information.
- Determine population trends based on data from the last census. Compare to earlier census data.
- Create a persuasive brochure for a local college encouraging students to enroll in one of the programs training people for high-demand jobs. If a program does not exist to train individuals for these jobs, students could write a letter to the appropriate audience to encourage creation of such a program. Students should read models of both pieces before they write.